


6/4/07-6

ACTON NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

To: Dore' Hunter, Chairman, Board of Selectmen **Date:** June 1, 2007
From: Tom Tidman, Director 
Subject: NARA Dog Policy

Dore', my observations are that most people seem to have accepted the new dog leash policy at NARA Park without much controversy. I have discussed the lease policy and related issues with our NARA groundskeeper, in general he is of the opinion that there is less dog waste to be cleaned up now than prior to the initiation of the policy.

Our staff has had very few instances where people are upset about the leash policy and it is staff's point of view that most people are abiding by the leach requirement.

On the other hand, I have had an opportunity to speak to several citizens that in the past have used the pond to train their dogs; they would like to see either early morning and/or evening hours when the pond could be used for dog water activities.

Maryjane Kenney

From: Catherine Fochtman
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2007 1:03 PM
To: Don Johnson; John Murray
Cc: Christine Joyce; Maryjane Kenney; Tom Tidman; Frank Widmayer; 'kenltack@comcast.net'; Dean Charter
Subject: RE: NARA dogs

Don and John,

The signage for dog leashing at NARA has been in place for a month. My observation is that most dog owners who are new to the park are following the posted signs. I have also observed regular patrons that arrive on foot with their dogs off leash. Our 30-hr per week groundskeeper, Rick Cowley, does a good job of informing visitors about the dog policy when he sees visitors that are not complying.

Our other observation is that there is greater adherence to the "pick up after your dog" policy, which is also posted on the dog signage. Rick has reported that there is far less waste to clean up.

As the NARA Summer Youth program approaches, it is of particular interest to me that the dog leashing rule be enforced during its hours of operation. My onsite director, Jon Grant, reported to me last summer that there were incidents of children being frightened by dogs off leash. Since the program is in operation from 7:30 am – 5:30pm from June 25 – August 29, I believe it is prudent to keep the rule in force during its duration.

*Cathy Fochtman
Recreation Director
Town of Acton
472 Main St.
Acton, MA 01720
978-264-9608 ext. 0
978-264-9630 fax*

From: Maryjane Kenney
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 3:35 PM
To: Tom Tidman; Catherine Fochtman; Frank Widmayer; 'kenltack@comcast.net'; Dean Charter
Cc: Don Johnson; John Murray; Christine Joyce
Subject: FW: NARA dogs

Per request of the Don/John please send any comments you may have about this issue before the June 4th BOS meeting. Thanks Maryjane

From: Dore' Hunter
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 4:33 PM
To: grifkin@comcast.net
Cc: Board of Selectmen; Manager Department
Subject: Re: NARA dogs

Mr. & Mrs. Rifkin,

Thank you for your email.

The issue of control of free running dogs has been debated off and on in Acton for many years, and was the

6/1/2007

Christine Joyce

From: Mark Hald
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 4:20 PM
To: Board of Selectmen; Manager Department; Frank Widmayer
Cc: 'Tack Palmer'
Subject: FW: LEASH LAW AT NARA

Forwarded at Tack's request.

Mark

From: Tack Palmer [mailto:Tack@palmerkennels.com]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 5:09 PM
To: Mark Hald
Subject: LEASH LAW AT NARA

Mark-
could you forward to the BOS, M1,M2, Frank and who ever else you deem necessary

A more equitable way to handle dog issues at Nara would be something along the lines of what York Maine has for their beaches and recreational areas. I'm quite familiar with these regulations, owning a house in the area and having 2 dogs.

The animal control law in a nutshell translates to this:

OFF SEASON REGULATIONS -(OCT 1ST - MARCH 31)

Sunrise to Sunset dogs are permitted off leash but under the verbal control of their owners. Owners must carry a leash of 15' or less. Animal owners must carry animal waste bags at all times and pick up all solid waste left by their dog and dispose of bagged waste in an appropriate receptacle. Owners shall not let their dog within 15' of other visitors unless welcomed by such person.

IN SEASON REGULATIONS - (APRIL 1ST - SEPTEMBER 30)

SUNRISE - 9:00AM AND 6:00PM- SUNRISE same as Off Season Regulations

9:00AM - 6:00PM All Dogs are required to be on a leash of 15' or less. Owners shall not let their dog within 15' of other visitors unless welcomed by such person. Animal owners must carry animal waste bags at all times and pick up all solid waste left by their dog and dispose of bagged waste in an appropriate receptacle.

Citations to the above regulations are issued by:

Town recreational employees

5/18/2007

Town police officers
Town animal control or Dog officer
Town life guards

Fines are as follows:

1st Offense \$25
2nd Offense \$50
3rd Offense \$75
etc.